United Nations A/53/556

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 October 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 3

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly

First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Michael John **Powles** (New Zealand)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 9 September 1998, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its fifty-third session consisting of the following Member States: China, Fiji, Jamaica, Mali, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

2. The Credentials Committee held its 1st meeting on 20 October 1998.

3. Michael John Powles was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 19 October 1998 concerning the credentials of representatives of Member States to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly. The memorandum indicated that, as at 19 October 1998, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been submitted by the following 127 States: Afghanistan,[1] Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan,

[1] Two sets of credentials received, see para. 7

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Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that the Secretary-General's memorandum related solely to the Member States that had submitted formal credentials of their representatives in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

6. Regarding the credentials of representatives of other Member States participating in the fifty-third session whose formal credentials had not yet been received at the time of the Committee's first meeting, the Legal Counsel stated that at a later stage the Secretary-General would report to the Committee on such credentials.

7. The Legal Counsel noted that the Secretariat had received two sets of credentials for two different delegations to represent Afghanistan at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly:

(a) A communication signed by Burhanuddin Rabbani, "President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan", presenting a delegation headed by A. Abdullah, "Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs";

(b) A communication signed by Alhaj Mulla Mohammad Rabbani, "Head of the Government of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan", presenting a delegation headed by Abdul Hakeem Mujahid, "Designate Permanent Representative".

8. Statements on the question of the credentials of Afghanistan were made by several representatives. They were in favour of a decision by the Committee which would have the same effect as the decision taken at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly. The Committee therefore decided to defer a decision on the credentials of representatives of Afghanistan on the same basis as that taken at the fifty-second session.

9. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted the following draft resolution:

"*The Credentials Committee,*

"*Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in paragraph 4 of the report of the Credentials Committee,

"*Taking into account* the statements made during the debate,

"*Accepts*, subject to the decision contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the Credentials Committee, the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

10. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 11). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

Recommendation of the credentials committee

11. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.